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PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF THE OZONE LAYER

Paper presented by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Summary

The report presents some of WMO's activities which led to the proposed WMO Global Ozone Research and Monitoring Project. The review of current knowledge includes the basic photochemistry and the distribution of ozone in the atmosphere with particular reference to certain man-made and natural events.

The consequences of increasing amounts of man-made trace gases in the stratosphere are then considered in relation to the ozone layer, climate and biological effects, followed by a proposal that UNEP consider establishing a representative scientific committee or working group with the purpose of recommending a suitable study programme to investigate the impact on the biosphere of any ozone changes established under the WMO Global Ozone Research and Monitoring Project.

A brief discussion of modelling the atmospheric ozone processes leads to the need for co-ordinated monitoring programmes of ozone, relevant trace gases and atmospheric parameters in order to advance knowledge in this field.

The recommendations deal with the Global Ozone Monitoring System, the WMO background air pollution station network, the UV monitoring network, studies of photochemistry, synoptic analysis and circulation studies, studies of special events, Ozone modelling, source inventories and the co-ordination of atmospheric studies.

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